

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

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PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15  
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
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S E C R E T NATO 08442

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, TU, GR  
SUBJECT: CONCEPT FOR NATO MARITIME MINING POLICY

REF: USNATO 8352 DTG 011458Z SEP 77

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SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE GIVES ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON ITEM  
II OF THE DPC AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 7, 1977, (REF A) WHICH  
DEALS WITH MC 237, NATO MARITIME MINING POLICY. A GREEK  
RESERVATION ON THE MILITARY COMMITTEE POLICY HAS DEFERRED  
DPC ACTION SINCE MAY, 1976. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON  
GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SUBJECT OF THE CONCEPT FOR NATO MARITIME MINING  
WAS PLACED ON THE SEPTEMBER 7, 1977, DPC AGENDA IN RESPONSE  
TO A FORMAL WRITTEN REQUEST OF THE TURKISH DELEGATION.  
THE BASIC MILITARY COMMITTEE DOCUMENT ON THIS ISSUE,  
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MC 237, WAS POUCHED TO THE WASHINGTON CENTRAL REGISTRY ON  
MAY 6, 1976, UNDER CONTROL NUMBER 5851. SUBSEQUENT TO  
CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA ON AUGUST 30, THE INTERNATIONAL  
STAFF AND SYG LUNS' PRIVATE OFFICE LEARNED THROUGH IN-  
FORMAL CHANNELS THAT THE TURKS NOW INTEND TO REQUEST  
REMOVAL OF THE ITEM. TO DATE HOWEVER, THEY HAVE TAKEN NO  
FORMAL ACTION TO DO SO.

2. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE DECISION WAS SENT TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON MAY 5, 1976, REQUESTING DPC APPROVAL. IT WAS FORWARDED IN SPITE OF A GREEK RESERVATION OVER THE WORDING OF THE THIRD SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 11 DEALING WITH COORDINATION OF MINING AMONG NEIGHBORING ALLIES AND NATO COMMANDERS. THE GREEK MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT FOR NATO MARITIME MINING BUT INSISTED THAT COORDINATION OF MINING PLANS BY NEIGHBORING STATES SHOULD DEAL ONLY WITH THE BORDERLINE OF ADJACENT SEA AREAS, NOT THE ADJACENT SEA AREAS THEMSELVES.

3. ON MAY 24, 1976, IN ARGUING AGAINST SYG LUNS' SUGGESTION TO INVITE GREECE TO A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DPC TO DISCUSS NATO MARITIME MINING, THEN A/SYG HUMPHREYS RECOMMENDED THAT MC 237 BE DROPPED FROM ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AND PUT IN THE "DEEP FREEZE". THAT COURSE OF ACTION WAS FOLLOWED, THUS ENDING A SIX-YEAR EFFORT BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY POLICY GUIDANCE ON NATO MARITIME MINING. THE SUBJECT HAS REMAINED DORMANT SINCE THAT TIME.

4. THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS ISSUE HAS NOT LESSENED IN THE PAST 15 MONTHS AND NOW IS A PARTICULARLY INOPPORTUNE TIME TO BROACH THE SUBJECT GIVEN POSSIBLE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF AN ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE ON ANY EARLY MEETING OF THE OEG DEALING  
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WITH GREECE - NATO NEGOTIATIONS. EVEN WITHOUT DISCUSSING THE SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS THE TURKS HAVE MADE THEIR POINT AGAIN ABOUT THE ANOMALY OF HAVING THE GREEKS PARTICIPATE IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND NOT IN THE DPC. WE ARE PREPARED TO WORK WITH TURKISH DELEGATION TO SEE IF A NON CONFRONTATIONAL SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND. NEVERTHELESS THE ITEM MAY REMAIN ON THE AGENDA. IF ACTIVE DISCUSSION PROVES UNAVOIDABLE WE RECOMMEND SUPPORTING APPROVAL OF MC 237 IN VIEW OF ITS NATO-WIDE APPLICATION AND THE NEED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR NATO COMMANDERS AND MEMBER NATIONS IN THIS IMPORTANT WARFARE AREA. AT THE SAME TIME, DUE NOTE CAN BE TAKEN OF THE GREEK RESERVATION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY OOB 7 SEPTEMBER. BENNETT

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** MPOL, TU, GR, NATO  
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